

Amendments to the Specification

Page 17, please replace paragraph [0031] with the following amended paragraph [0031]:

[0031] The method of the present invention for screening and identifying molecules that transactivate a neurotrophin receptor and mediate neuronal cell survival in the absence of neurotrophins involves ~~conducting~~ conducting one or a combination of assays A, B or C. Assay A comprises treating neuronal cells with a candidate small molecule activator (transactivator) and then reacting a neurotrophic receptor, such as TrkA and Ret, which is obtained from a cell lysate of the treated neuronal cells, with an anti-phosphotyrosine antibody specific for a phosphorylated form of the neurotrophin receptor. Detection of specific binding of the anti-phosphotyrosine antibody to a phosphorylated form of the neurotrophin receptor identifies a small molecule activator/transactivator of the neurotrophin receptor. In assay B, neuronal cells are also first treated with a candidate small molecule activator/transactivator before reacting either a phosphatidylinositol 3'-kinase, obtained from a cell lysate of the treated neuronal cells, with an anti-phospho-PI3-K antibody specific for the phosphorylated form of PI3-K or an Akt enzyme, obtained from a cell lysate of the treated neuronal cells, with an anti-phospho-Akt antibody specific for

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the phosphorylated form of Akt. The detection of specific binding of the anti-phospho-PI3-K to the phosphorylated form of PI3-K or of the anti-phospho-Akt to the phosphorylated form of Akt identifies a small molecule activator/transactivator of a neurotrophin receptor and PI3-K/Akt.